

Antis dub council GMA 'cry for help'

By Herman Benabados and Philip C. Toledo

OPPOSITION LEGISLATORS YESTERDAY dismissed President Managel-Arroyo's decision to convene the Council of State as a "cry for help" or a ploy to rest her administration with a "semblance of legitimacy" and blunt efforts to remove her from office as the anniversary of Edsa II approaches.

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House Deputy Minority Leader Juan E. Gonzalez said the President's decision to convene the Council of State was a "cry for help" and a ploy to rest her administration with a "semblance of legitimacy" and blunt efforts to remove her from office as the anniversary of Edsa II approaches.

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Solon bucks VFA anew, cites Japan action vs GI

By Delfino T. Malina Jr.

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Cha-cha backers aim for 5-M signatures

By Herman Benabados

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Consolation Prizes:

- 1st Prize: ...
- 2nd Prize: ...
- 3rd Prize: ...

Zsa Zsa, Marvin Agustin, 'Kutob' filmfest winners

By Maricel B. Cruz

Zsa Zsa Ingeles, WHO DRE... was awarded an... Marvin Agustin... 'Kutob' filmfest winners...

St. Therese

... of the Church...



THERE is HOPE

DOT sees 3-M tourist arrivals this year

By Jerome Aring

THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM EXPECTS more 2.8 million to 3 million foreign tourists to arrive this year as the agency's tourism promotional gears hit home.

Tourism Secretary Joseph Lee Dizon said earlier, however, could reach 3.5 million if the targets achieved.

Last year, the country hit its 2.6 million target to foreign tourist arrivals.

Dizon said the DOT would continue its multi-pronged drive for more tourists from India, Russia and Indonesia.

The department's promotional activities start this year with the holding of the 23rd Association of Southeast Asian Nations Tourism Ministers in Metro Manila City next week.

DOT is a regional cooperation with the tourism promotion Southeast Asia Economic Summit in the global travel market.

During this year as "Celebrating the Many Faces of Tourism," tourism ministers from the region and from East Asian countries, as well as more 1,000 foreign and local delegates, will be attending the forum from Jan. 12 to 22 in various new market strategies and common tourism initiatives, according to Dizon.

Dizon said the DOT's "Solidarity Agenda" is having the DOT work to improve Malabon

potential as a tourist destination, with Dizon serving as the island's "gateway and destination."

He said he had high hopes that the DOT would change Dizon's image from a tourist target to a tourist haven. In 2005, two health fairs there killed more than 40 persons and wounded several others.

Dizon said the Asian Economic Summit approved the holding of the DOT in Malabon to the city's much-improved public security, transportation infrastructure and tourism services.

"Dizon City Mayor [Rudy] Dizon is excited to see that the DOT participants would be safe, sound and secure before, during and after the event. We have our legacy plans," Dizon said.

The DOT chief said that through the DOT there would gain access to an international tourist destination like Cebu City which has led the DOT in 1998.

Dizon said Malabon and the rest of the country would also benefit from the DOT with the holding of joint conference tours for media and other tourists "spice-makers" to various Philippine destinations such as Iloilo, Zamboanga, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Cebu, Iloilo, Palawan, Batangas, Iloilo and Zamboanga.

FEBRUARY 2-5, 2006

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Pistang Pambata

February 4, 2006
Saturday 8:00 AM



www.mmfgf.org

Pawnshops assets now P14B ...

By Jerome Aring

IN 1993 DOTY 7 billion to 2006.

This month, while the number of pawnshops has been rising, the assets have been growing rapidly by the value that have piling up at an even faster rate.

Only financial options

More important, this includes that pawnshops—much like the widely maligned "4-11" loan business—are the only financial options available to many who either do not have bank accounts or are ineligible for bank loans.

DOT disclosed that pawnshops provided about of P1.1 billion worth of loans to nearly 100,000 borrowers at the end of 2004, up from P1.3 billion reported in 1993.

"There is no one else really good in this industry," Dizon said. "While some pawnshops are doing down, there are some others that are growing very rapidly."

The proliferation of pawnshops is the only way to meet the demand for credit in the country, according to the DOT's report.

Hottest item: Cell phones

Of late, among the most popular items being pawned are mobile phones. They have become a major application of the pawn shop's services.

Cell phones have become an essential item for many people, and only in these pawnshops can they be pawned.

One such place, Metro Manila Pawnshop, already has its inventory and loans up to 100 percent.

Other firms, which manage the branch in Metro Manila, also in Metro Manila City are doing well.

Standstill, gambler

"On the average, we accept more to be pawned than we can lend," he said. "There has been a standstill price in the market."

how much each cell phone model is worth on the secondary market, and the "loanable" amount varies from model to model. It often can be as high as P500 for a low-end phone, but as low as P100 for a high-end phone.

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Pawnshop watching

DOT's Statistics and Survey Department plans to watch the industry more closely, especially in the aspect of consumer protection, given the increasing number of people coming to pawnshops.

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Raptors rout Rockets

Kidd triple-double powers NJ Nets

TORONTO—MIKE JAMES HAD 30 POINTS, EIGHT assists and seven rebounds against his former team Friday, and the Toronto Raptors were their season-high fifth straight with a 112-92 rout of the Houston Rockets.

Chris Child added 22 points and 16 rebounds and rookie Charles Williams had 21 points for the Raptors, who are on their longest winning streak since winning the title in November 2003.

James, acquired from Houston in a trade for Reggie Miller on Christmas, topped off his game after Houston lost to the Toronto Raptors, who opened by losing 100-91 to the Nets on the previous night.

James had just two points and seven rebounds in 20 minutes.

Drew McCarty scored 17 points—scoring 10 for the 5th time in a row—after the Rockets have lost six straight.

In San Francisco, San Jerry James had 30 points, 11 assists and 11 rebounds for the 4th time in a row.

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SAN ANTONIO Spurs guard Manu Ginobili scores for an easy basket.

Shaq may suit up for US squad

PHOENIX—JERRY COUGHLIN, PUTTING together the U.S. basketball team for the 2004 Olympic championships and 2008 Olympic, said Shaquille O'Neal would not participate.

Coughlin, managing director of USA Basketball, spoke to O'Neal on Thursday as part of his meetings with NBA players prior to training camp in June.

"I thought that going to that far had been in their own best interest to stay in," Coughlin said Friday night. "After I spoke with him, he said they were very open to the idea."

He said that he felt he should speak to O'Neal "out of respect for his life."

Coughlin also met with O'Neal's agent, Michael Chapiro, on Thursday.

"We're one of the top and winning young stars of the game," Coughlin said.

Players must make a three-year commitment to join the camp and exhibition games leading up to the 2004 Olympic Games.

Coughlin said that he would expect O'Neal to be a key player in the 2004 Olympic Games.

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Hingis return runs into tough draw

NEW YORK—LEANDER PAES, HINGIS' partner in the 1999 Wimbledon title, said Hingis would not play in the 2004 Olympic Games.

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Caddies' tournament lowers age limit

THE SECOND NATIONAL CADDIES' tournament will be staged in the third week of February in Glenageary, Co. Dublin.

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US breeders hit town

THE AMERICAN Quarter Horse breeders are hitting the town in the 2004 Olympic Games.

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Appleby rolls up sleeves, works way to Mercedes lead

APPLEBY, IRELAND—THE SCOTCHMAN is a man of many talents. He is a man of many talents. He is a man of many talents.

Appleby, Ireland—The Scotchman is a man of many talents. He is a man of many talents. He is a man of many talents.

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APT's 'poktanju' & more

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Suicide attack sinks Sri Lanka Navy gunboat, kills 15



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 Email: info@pandoly.com / Pandoly@pandoly.com

COLOMBO—SUSPECTED Tamil, ethnic Indian separatist fighters today killing 15 Sri Lanka sailors in a suicide attack that caused the biggest military loss of life since 1983, the military said.

The pre-dawn attack came as the United States expressed concern over the recent escalation of violence that has claimed tens of a dozens to civil war in the Indian Ocean island nation since its ethnic conflict.

"The boat exploded and we believe it was LTTE Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's suicide attack," defense ministry spokesman Prasad Aranasinghe said.

An explosion gutted the ship less than a mile from the beach of the island's second largest city, Colombo. The ship was hit by a 100-kilogram (220-lb) bomb, the ministry said.

The attack which killed 15 sailors including five officers inflicted the biggest single military loss of life since the Sri Lankan military took over in February 1983, the military said.

Decades later the LTTE fighters have been successful in their military goals. In 1990, the Tigers gave the island a brief period of independence, but the government eventually crushed the rebellion.

AP

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See prizes & details

Sunday **BIZ**

Business Editor Margie Quiros-Espino

UP grad has grand plan for engineering school

By Tina Koon-Dantico

THE YUCHENGO group took over the Mapa Institute of Technology in 1999 with the thought of undertaking dramatic changes at the famed engineering and architecture school to bring it to a higher level.

In doing so, would require a person at the helm of the institute who can see these changes through, and the group believed it found the right man for the job in Dr. Reynaldo S. Mapa.

Now, after all, has a long and variable track record of meeting challenges head-on and coming out ahead.

Fortunately for the Yuchengo group, Yuchengo immediately said yes to the offer made in 1999 for him to head the school.

"It would be a great challenge to head a school like Mapa that has contributed a lot to national development," the

newly hired Mapa is an interview.

Many people have asked him why he—a magna cum laude mechanical engineering graduate of the University of the Philippines, and former dean of the UP College of Engineering—would be the one to do it, in spirit, and with a lot of Mapa.

FAST JOB

Why not, he replied, according to him, he has long ago shed the vestiges of parochialism and nationalism that giving back means being limited to UP even if the country's economic state is such that it would be a wrong reflection on his person.

His own celebration of the first batch of graduates of the Philippine Science High School when he entered UP in 1966. He made up mechanical engineering because he wanted to go into ship building.

"How can you go working with ship building in a country with 7,000 islands?" he says.

Academically, however, Mapa took a shortcut as first, his strong UP students at that time, became a political activist, taking part in the First Quarter Storm.

"It would be very difficult for

any student at that time not to be involved," he explains. "It was the height of the anti-Franco war protest movement and there was a suppression of human rights. In what is a landmark in its history because it was."

He was active in student organizations such as the Student Government and the Student Union. He also became active in the UP Philippine College, the UP student paper, and a member of the UP Student Council. He even ran for the chairmanship of the council, but lost.

Such involvement, however, did not go unnoticed.

In 1973, the 26-year-old was supposed to attend a student meeting when he was greeted by the door by military personnel.

The news took him to that Manila city where he would be locked up for the next 28 months.

He came out of Fort Mifflin more focused and with dreams still burning in his heart. From that time only started to study the law.

In 1975, he went back to UP but he admitted that he did not have a lot of military work when he saw that many of his fellow students were younger than he was, while a number of his professors used to be his former classmates.

He struggled through and, in October 1977, he finally got his degree in the degree of his friends and family.

Now, he was running his own company—PSE in Manila—as a professor at the UP Engineering

Science department.

Twisting, he said, was something he had always wanted to do. He went about teaching for two years before he left for the US to take his Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering and Materials Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He went back to teaching after getting his Master's degree in 1981, but he left again to get his doctorate in Engineering at California Institute of Technology in 1983.

He could have stayed on in the US, something which many of his contemporaries did, but he says that going back to the Philippines to work was always his dream.

UP/STAFF/PH



UP opening before students at the UP Arts and Science Center, 1971



Jovito Trinitado learned by playing

Young stock market hotshot learns skills from PSE game

MANILA (PSE) Trinitado, joined an online Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) trading game two years ago, he just wanted to have fun playing with P1 million to "invest" or make better use of.

But the PSE's computerized and real-time game, called Stock Trading Tournament (STT), was so realistic and the insights Trinitado gained in virtual that he decided to make a career out of what he learned.

From playing with make-believe money, Trinitado now helps manage multi-million-peso-dollar accounts as an investment officer of First Metro Investment Corp., (First Metro), the investment house subsidiary of Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. Inc.

How Metro is making money out of Trinitado's skills has...like a real job—Trinitado does not have to give an exact figure of how Metro's returns for its dealer accounts.

"We are not sure we beat the Manila Philippine Composite Index for our dealer accounts," he says.

First Metro dealer accounts, that, started up a return of over 25 percent in the PSE, which is the benchmark of all stock price movements at the PSE, given by that stock last year.

Seeing the PSE as a career choice, the 23-year-old Trinitado has an up-and-coming stock market trader, but his performance does not come as a surprise. For PSE, people who reached into play at the STT as a trader.

Based on data from the PSE, Trinitado won third place, among the talented in the STT of the annual STT in 2003, while he was still a 20-year-old the La Salle University management student.

While he did not grab the top prize, the honor was enough to further what Trinitado's objective for the end day.

"I would like to continue doing stock trading, and I feel that I wouldn't get tired of doing this," he says.

Trinitado's achievement and enthusiasm have attracted the attention of First Metro PSE position and did executive officer.

Lin described the young investment officer as "an inspiration to many Filipinos, especially young people who also wish to explore the stock market."

Trinitado's accomplishment has attracted Lin's resolve to continue with the stock market trading, which the PSE launched three years ago in private stock market transactions.

"Trinitado is proof that the STT indeed helps people sharpen their stock market skills," Lin says. "I am convinced using real data and their will follow the footsteps of Jovito when pursuing for stock market trading."

The online PSE STT, which can be accessed at www.pse.com.ph, offers players a real-world trading experience to help them predict market behavior.

In the case of the third annual tournament last Oct. 28, each player was given a virtual credit of P1 million in initial play money. These winnings are based on the player's virtual portfolio value.

However, including a P15,000 up prize and trophies, each winner is awarded at the end of 88 days of simulated trading.

As to Trinitado, he remains passionate about his job as an investment adviser.

"This is my passion," he says. "It is just to do what I love in a highly-demand industry for me."

Sunday **BIZ**

SHIELDED's products range from baskets to wooden boxes.

Hardworking couple produce abaca treasures

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For those who
appreciate refinement.

DANAGA, ALBAY—SHIELDED's "Dad" Villanueva's marriage to Medlarin "Mel" Vallejo in 1978 started the weaving of not only a long-term partnership but also a successful abaca craft enterprise.

The Vallejos, from their passion for their parents, are among the pioneers in the abaca industry here.

When Mel's parents, Antonio Vallejo and Lucila Theresita Vallejo, decided to close down the family business, the newlyweds opted to put up the Shielded Cottage Treasures.

Mel, a 24-year-old teacher, and Mel, a 20-year-old mechanical engineer, were probably the youngest couple then.

The couple started Shielded with an initial capitalization of P10,000 and their employees from the old Vallejo company, where Lucila also worked as a traditional weaver.

They started producing abaca placemats and doormats and later expanded their product line to vases and lamp fixtures. Baskets and other handicrafts made from abaca fiber after creating a line from a private Chinese manufacturer.

Hard work

The couple initially supplied the premium stores of the villages in the United States.

The Villanuevas worked hard to expand their business, ensuring that the enthusiasm and the quality of their products are top-notch, even for such concerned users.

Shielded focused on product development, created unique and progressive markets, formed groups and participated in international exhibitions to maintain its competency and relevance in the international market.

In 1978, Shielded launched its first big order worth \$200,000 of bags from the Department of the UK by air-transporting with other exporters.

"From how my parents worked really hard, especially when we were young. They would be gone for really long periods, sometimes for 45 days where we were dealing with Europe. I saw how they had to develop markets for certain items," recalls Mel Villanueva, the couple's eldest daughter and Shielded's current marketing director.

One of the hurdles the business went through was when a businessman began did not pay a considerable part of products in 1978. Fortunately, the products were returned to a New York buyer who helped them out.

Most valuable asset

Having worked with their employees for quite a long time now, the Villanuevas regard as their employees their most valuable asset.

"We consider our employees part of the family and we are obliged to help them grow and develop their talents. We provide security for their dependents as well," assured Mel.

The couple's Shielded choice as friends and partners their success by producing concerned products and new items annually to avoid competition, they refuse only one thing to survive in the market.

Shielded's products have included bags, vases, placemats and doormats, accessories, vases, and pillows, ribbons and fabrics and more items, among others.

The company continues along with other materials like pine, teakwood, tin, paper, glass and leather and produce them in natural, finished or decorated forms.

"We believe in constant innovation through customer satisfaction. It is more cost-effective to create a customer than gain a new one," Mel adds.

Shielded remains competitive in the export market through innovation, competitive pricing, good quality and the relationship with its

(MANILA BUREAU)

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Shielded remains competitive through innovation, competitive pricing, good quality and the relationship with its

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Business facilities
require the newspaper to be delivered
to the office by 6:00 a.m. to ensure
timely delivery.

Editor: Chato Bandaranaike

A Pinoy church in the Big Apple

By Catherine Sarah Young
Contributor

FILIPINOS ARE ALL over the globe. For a country and there's bound to be a variety of

Pinoy in there, be it to work, to get an education or to earn a living.

And where Filipinos go, so does their faith. Independent of the rest, the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz at 279 Avenue Road in Little Italy, New

York, was designated as a church dedicated to Filipinos, the first in the United States and the second in the world. The first one having been designated in Rome by no less than the late Pope John Paul II.

—JANET LEE



Casa de Lorenzo, the first Filipino chapel in US, finds its new home in Little Italy, New York.

Getting fired up for the Year of the Fire Dog

CLIFFHOUSE Tuguey is an upscale boutique restaurant and event complex in near the Divisoria area of Tuguey's resort.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! BUT only if you're not Chinese! Tuguey has a lot to offer, including the city's oldest Chinese New Year's Eve celebration. Many thanks to the reader who reached me this morning to let me know that, when I wrote that the Year of the Fire Dog has been an omen for the city, it was not just a coincidence. It was a sign.

TESSA!

Tessa Pineda
Hadden

I must have lived in 2003 with all the happy moments and memories of my little life of happiness as a Chinese New Year's Eve celebration. I got to celebrate with my Chinese friends and family. I was a quick study with the online encyclopedia, Wikipedia, and I had a lot of fun with it. I was even able to find out that the Chinese New Year's Eve celebration was a holiday in the Philippines.

For those of us who like Chinese New Year's Eve, it was a great first of the New Year's Eve, it was a great first of the New Year's Eve, it was a great first of the New Year's Eve.

The Chinese New Year, of course, because the January 1st incident was so much of the end of the New Year's Eve. I was in the Philippines for the New Year's Eve, I was in the Philippines for the New Year's Eve, I was in the Philippines for the New Year's Eve.

Pyramid
The New Year's celebration, which Chinese in Manila, are always associated with, has been a lot of fun. I was in the Philippines for the New Year's Eve, I was in the Philippines for the New Year's Eve, I was in the Philippines for the New Year's Eve.

Along the tradition of the New Year's Eve, I was in the Philippines for the New Year's Eve, I was in the Philippines for the New Year's Eve, I was in the Philippines for the New Year's Eve.



CLIFFHOUSE Tuguey is an upscale boutique restaurant and event complex in near the Divisoria area of Tuguey's resort.



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being me to watch the fireworks for the night. I was in the Philippines for the New Year's Eve, I was in the Philippines for the New Year's Eve, I was in the Philippines for the New Year's Eve.

For my youngest brother, Tessa Pineda, I was in the Philippines for the New Year's Eve, I was in the Philippines for the New Year's Eve, I was in the Philippines for the New Year's Eve.

After getting involved in the New Year's Eve, I was in the Philippines for the New Year's Eve, I was in the Philippines for the New Year's Eve, I was in the Philippines for the New Year's Eve.

With a lot of fun, I was in the Philippines for the New Year's Eve, I was in the Philippines for the New Year's Eve, I was in the Philippines for the New Year's Eve.

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Will his love remain unrequited?

EMILY'S POST

For those who have been in the Philippines for a long time, it is a lot of fun. I was in the Philippines for the New Year's Eve, I was in the Philippines for the New Year's Eve, I was in the Philippines for the New Year's Eve.

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Hadden

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